

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 01743 120131Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 OMB-01
TRSE-00 EB-08 FEA-01 INT-05 FPC-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /071 W
-----120142Z 017052 /73

O 120045Z FEB 77 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0293
INFO ALL U.S. CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1743

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, MX
SUBJECT: MOOD IN MEXICO ON EVE OF JLP VISIT TO US

1. SUMMARY: PUBLIC INTEREST CONTINUES STRONG ON EVE OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION TO IMPROVING THE TONE OF US-MEXICAN RELATIONS AND ESTABLISHING A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NEWLY INAUGURATED US AND MEXICAN PRESIDENTS, THE VISIT IS REGARDED AS AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR MEXICO TO OBTAIN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL HELP NECESSARY TO ASSIST THE COUNTRY TO RECOVER FROM ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS AND MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOALS OUTLINED IN THE PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS. WHILE NO ONE, INCLUDING JLP, ANTICIPATES "INSTANT" SOLUTIONS, PRESS ARTICLES AND STATEMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS HAVE UNDERLINED THE NEED FOR FRANKNESS AND REALISM ON BOTH SIDES IN CONSIDERING THE BROAD RANGE OF INTER-RELATED, BILATERAL PROBLEMS (TRADE, FINANCES, ILLEGAL MIGRATION, DRUGS, TOURISM, ETC). IN US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. SEVERAL SOURCES, HOWEVER, HAVE OFFERED A WORD OF CAUTION ABOUT THE NEED FOR POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ON THE QUESTION OF US INTEREST IN STIMULATING MORE PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS TO THE US.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 01743 120131Z

2. THE PUBLIC MOOD ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES IS CAUTIOUSLY UPBEAT AND OPTIMISTIC. ON FEBRUARY 10, THE PRI ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING NATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP AND CALLING THE JLP-CARTER TALKS "A PROPITIOUS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW A COOPERATIVE POLICY BASED ON REALISM." THE PRI EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT THE VISIT,

NOTING THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR FRANK AND OPEN COMMUNICATIONS. ECHOING THE SAME THEME, LOPEZ PORTILLO MET FEB. 10 WITH ORVILLE FREEMAN AND OTHER FOREIGN EXECUTIVES OF BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL AND STRESSED MEXICO'S INTEREST IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN INVESTMENT UNDER MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE "RULES OF THE GAME, I. E., ALL CARDS ON THE TABLE AND NOTHING UP OUR SLEEVES." (THE RULES HE IS TALKING ABOUT ARE THE INVESTMENT LAWS ON THE BOOKS; HE DID NOT GIVE ANY INDICATION THE RULES WOULD BE CHANGED, BUT ACCOMODATIONS MIGHT BE ARRANGED.)

3. DURING THE PAST WEEK THE PRESS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN COMMENTING GENERALLY ABOUT THE BROAD RANGE OF BILATERAL ISSUES IN US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. THE MEXICAN PRESS COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE IN MEETING WITH US LEGISLATORS FROM BORDER STATES IN ANTICIPATION OF PRESIDENTIAL VISIT. SEVERAL ARTICLES SAID--WITHOUT COMMENT--THAT THE US CONGRESSMEN HAD ADVOCATED A NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT. WHILE REFRAINING FROM SPECULATION ABOUT ANY SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS WHICH MIGHT EMERGE FROM THE CARTER-JLP MEETING, PUBLIC COMMENTARY HAS TENDED TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE VARIOUS BILATERAL ISSUES ARE ALL COMPLICATED, LINKED IN VARIOUS WAYS AND MUST BE TREATED AS A PACKAGE. THE PRESS HAS MADE OCCASIONAL MENTION OF THE NEED FOR SOME KIND OF ON-GOING MECHANISM TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY IN DEALING WITH THE BROAD RANTE OF BILATERAL ISSUES, BUT THIS HAS NOT BEEN A MAJOR PUBLIC THEME.

4. SEVERAL ARTICLES HAVE REFERRED TO US INTEREST IN HELPING TO DEVELOP MEXICO'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF FUTURE US ENERGY IMPORTS. IN THIS CONTEXT, EXCELSIOR OF FEBRUARY 11 HIGHLIGHTED CONGRESSMAN DANTE FASCELL'S REMARK THAT THE US AND

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 01743 120131Z

MEXICO SHOULD COOPERATE IN DEVELOPING AND EXPLOITING THEIR NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES(WATER, ENERGY AND MINERALS). PERHAPS IN REACTION TO PRESS TREATMENT OF PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT QUESTION? THERE HAVE BEEN PRIVATE WORDS OF CAUTION FROM EMBASSY CONTACTS THAT DISPOSITION OF NATIONAL RESOURCES IS A POLITICALLY SENSITIVE QUESTION FOR JLP AND MUST BE TREATED IN A LOW KEY AND WITH CARE.

5. THE AMOUNT OF FAVORABLE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE EVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST OFFICIAL TRIP TO THE US HAS BEEN IMPRESSIVE AND IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE PREVAILING MOOD OF MALAISE DURING THE LATTER PART OF ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION. IN KEEPING WITH JLP'S INSISTENCE ON LOOKING FORWARD NOT BACKWARD, HOWEVER, DIRECT CRITICISM OF ECHEVERRIA HAS BEEN AVOIDED BY ALL OFFICIALS WHO HAVE DISCUSSED THE VISIT. TO A LARGE EXTENT THIS SWING PROBABLY REFLECTS MEXICO'S SERIOUS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. IT IS ALSO A PRODUCT OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S MORE PRAGMATIC STYLE AND CONVICTION THAT GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES ARE ESSENTIAL IF MEXICO IS TO COPE SUCCESSFULLY WITH ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC ATTITUDES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO01743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0435
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770247/aaaabphp.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e20e6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3335274
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOOD IN MEXICO ON EVE OF JLP VISIT TO US
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, MX, US, (LOPEZ PORTILLO, JOSE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e20e6ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009